

Department of Interior, Watercraft Safety Working Group Conference Call  
April 29, 2004

Participants:

Anne Sittauer	FWS(chair)
Ed Wickersham	FWS
Gary Hill	USGS
Vern Hurt	NPS
Jake Schlapfer	BLM
Jeff Peterson	BOR
Linda Rowley	BOR
Harrison Daniel	DOI

The conference began at 1:00PM EDT. The new BOR representative Jeff Peterson introduced himself to the group and summarized his background. We all welcome Jeff's participation and look forward to working with him.

The letter that was sent to the Safety Council was discussed and there was general consensus that it was a positive step. Linda Rowley said she would discuss the letter with the Safety Council before their next scheduled meeting.

Gary Hill briefed the Group on the Airboat Manual. He advised the Group that USGS has approved the Manual for their use. He has received no comments from anyone on the Work Group. He is working on the instructor's edition and is on Chapter IV. He will obtain new pictures for the manual depicting all individuals in PFDs. Gary will send Jeff a CD version of the Airboat Manual for his review.

Jake updated the Group on the Non-motorized Module. It has been reviewed by BLM and approved. Jake said he still needs pictures. He will send it out for review to the Work Group.

Gary said he had been continuing to work on the USGS operator database and feels he has a reasonably accurate list at this point. He went on to say that he discussed the issue with Chris Horsch and that he is going to wait to do anything further because a new Department Database will be initiated in the near future and all Bureaus will be using that system. Gary feels this will be a distinct improvement.

There was a general discussion concerning posting classes on Safetynet. It was determined that it was worthwhile and that all classes should be posted with Harrison in a timely manner.

It was determined that Harrison would post the Accident Analysis on Safetynet. He will contact Mary Parkinson to determine how she would suggest it be posted. Harrison suggested he would have a brief summary for users to review with a link to the full document.

Harrison advised the Group that he had sent a CD to BIA with the Policy and Refresher for their review.

Concerning the Refresher Gary Hill asked the Group how “Regular User” vs. “Occasional User” as referenced in the Refresher was defined by the various Bureaus. Anne suggested that the exact interpretation of that standard was best left to the immediate supervisors because of the broad variations in watercraft use throughout the Department.

Jeff Peterson requested an updated version of the Instructor Roster. Anne said she would obtain one from Chris Horsch for Jeff.

Anne suggested that the Group be thinking about possible changes to the MOICC, such as adopting something like the “shadow” method currently being used by USGS. Anne cautioned that what ever was developed needed to be standardized, it must follow the policy and must have a formal schedule. Gary Hill said he would provide the Group a comprehensive email on how USGS conducts their MOICC trains.

The next Conference Call was scheduled for **May 24, 2004 at 1:00PM EDT.**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Gary will provide Jeff a copy of the draft Airboat Manual
- All members are to update the Work Group Roster. When complete Harrison will post on Safetynet
- Jake will have the Non-Motorized Module out for review by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Harrison will contact Mary Parkinson to obtain the executive summary for the Accident Analysis. He will post the Accident Analysis on Safetynet.
- Anne will provide Jeff an updated Instructor Roster.
- Gary will provide the Work Group a comprehensive description of the MOICC training that USGS conducts.